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**AMENDMENT**

**Attorney Docket No.: Case 7028**

**Patent Application Serial No. 10/829,514**

**Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2006**

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**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): ~~An Apparatus~~ apparatus for bending a tube in a tube bend plane, comprising: a sleeve for receiving the tube therein a bend die mounted for rotation about a bending axis a clamp die directed toward the bend die for clamping the sleeve to the bend die, the sleeve having an inner surface engaged by the bend die, ~~and an outer surface engaged by the clamp die, and a first longitudinal slit located between the inner surface and the outer surface parallel to the tube bend plane,~~ the clamp die holding the sleeve to be bent as the bend die and clamp dies rotate about the bending axis a pressure die engaged with the outer surface of the sleeve for restraining a portion of the sleeve spaced away from the bend to be formed in the tube; and means for rotating the bend die and clamp die to bend the sleeve and tube about the bend die.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein the sleeve has a second longitudinal slit located between the inner surface and the outer surface parallel to the tube bend plane.
4. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises carbon steel
5. (currently amended): A method for bending a tube, the tube having an outer diameter

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and the bend defining a tube bend plane, comprising: inserting the tube into an external sleeve, the external sleeve having an inner surface, ~~and an outer surface,~~ and a first longitudinal slit located parallel to the tube bend plane between the inner surface and the outer surface of the sleeve; engaging the inner surface of the sleeve with a bend die mounted for rotation about a bending axis; engaging the outer surface of the sleeve with a clamp die for clamping the sleeve and a tube to the bend die; directing a pressure die against the outer surface of the sleeve adjacent the clamp die; and rotating the clamp die and the bend die to bend the sleeve and tube around the bend die.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein the sleeve has a second longitudinal slit located parallel to the tube bend plane between the inner surface and the outer surface of the sleeve opposite the first longitudinal slit.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the sleeve is made of carbon steel.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the tube is bent to a bend radius between about 1 to about 2 times the tube outer diameter.

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the tube has a tube wall thickness less than about 10% of the diameter of the tube.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the tube is bent to a bend

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radius between about 1 to about 2 times the tube outer diameter.

12. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the tube has a tube wall thickness of about 0.095"-0.250."

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the tube is bent to a bend radius between about 1 to about 2 times the tube outer diameter.

14. (previously presented): A method for bending a tube into a tight radius bend, the tube having a tube wall thickness less than about 10% of the tube outer diameter, the bend defining a tube bend plane, comprising: inserting the tube into an external sleeve, the sleeve having an inner surface and an outer surface and a first longitudinal slit located parallel to the tube bend plane between the inner surface and the outer surface; engaging the inner surface of the sleeve with a bend die mounted for rotation about a bending axis; engaging the outer surface of the sleeve with a clamp die for clamping the tube to the bend die; directing a pressure die against the outer surface of the sleeve adjacent the clamp die; and rotating the clamp die and the bend die to bend the tube and sleeve around the bend die.

15. (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein the tube is bent to a bend radius between about 1 to about 2 times the tube outer diameter.

16. (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the sleeve has a second longitudinal slit located parallel to the tube bend plane between the inner surface and the outer surface opposite the first longitudinal slit.